



ILA FISHER MAUGHAN

State champion in oratory for two consecutive years at Wasatch High School, 1911-12.

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A year later Miss Fisher again captured the public address gold medal, the first time in Utah history that the same school had twice won this honor. Her oration, "Universal Peace" was widely reprinted.

Because of Miss Fisher's oratorical success, she was invited in June of 1912 to address the general conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Associations and the Primary Association of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She spoke in the Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square to the theme of "Three Pioneer Women." Her eloquent address was hailed in the Salt Lake City newspapers as the highlight of the conference.

The prestige of Wasatch High School was further boosted in 1913 when Afton Clyde (Kimball) brought additional honors by winning first place in the annual State Declamation Contest and bringing to the school its third gold medal.

Through the years many Wasatch teams in the arts and athletics claimed honors for their school. The school band frequently participated

in parades and won several national awards for marching contests. Wasatch athletic teams often were participants in state playoffs.

The original high school building constructed in 1912 was inadequate for school needs by 1927, and a modern brick addition was built. Still another addition was made in 1959 to meet further growth of the school.

Wasatch High School today stands heads above its beginning self. Its modern classroom facilities and a faculty of 29 teachers plus the principal are large steps forward from rented quarters and a teaching staff of a principal and two teachers. But the spirit of learning and determination to succeed has always been a part of the school and will continue to dominate the activities of all who become a part of Wasatch High School.

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The new building program even found enthusiastic response in the words of the high school song, "Wasatch, We Love Thee," written by Prof. O. A. Whitaker, music director of high and elementary schools. Verse three included mention of the new school. The words are as follows:

## I

Wasatch, Dear, we love thee well;  
 'Tis here in peace and joy we dwell;  
 And in thy praise a song we'll swell,  
 Thy wondrous destiny foretell.  
 Thou are nestled midst the hills,  
 With smiling brooks and laughing rills;  
 O, what rapture, my heart fills  
 With thanks to God my bosom thrills.

## Refrain:

Wasatch, Oh, lovely Wasatch,  
 Beautiful, young and free;  
 Wasatch, Oh, my dear Wasatch,  
 Thou art home, art home to me.

## II

Thy snow-capped spires towering high;  
 Gleaming 'neath the sunlit sky;  
 All with nature's beauties, vie,  
 As canyon breezes softly sigh;  
 Utah, Queen of all the West,  
 With a Wasatch, thou art blessed;  
 Lovelier than all the rest,  
 So the stars and flowers confess.

## III

Before another year has gone,  
 We'll labor hard, and build a home,  
 A high school building of our own.  
 The world will wonder how we've grown.  
 In years to come when we are gray,  
 We'll hear the untold thousands say:  
 "God bless our parents, bless the day  
 They gave to us a better way."



O. A. Whitaker, beloved music teacher in Wasatch schools.

And then in the yearbook of 1913 is this tribute:

"Professor Whitaker cannot be too highly praised for his work in the schools.

"We might write page after page about him, but with the limited space at our command, we can give no more than a brief summary of his most important work.

"He presented a very creditable opera last Christmas and is completing a very successful school year by presenting the opera 'The Merry Milkmaids.'

"He has built up a band of which Wasatch may well be proud. Out of the worst medley of sounds imaginable, he has trained an orchestra that has played some excellent music for several entertainments this winter."

From its inception, Wasatch High School claimed many "firsts" in statewide athletic and cultural competition. One of the most noteworthy achievements came in the years 1911 and 1912 when Ila Fisher (Maughan) put Heber City and Wasatch County on the state's cultural map by winning the state public speaking contests two years in a row.

The contests, sponsored by the University of Utah, drew the best high school orators from the state to Salt Lake City for the two-day competition.

In 1911 Miss Fisher won the contest's gold medal with an original oration on "Mother's Day." The old Salt Lake Herald Republican of May 20, 1911, carried a picture of the winner with a headline: "Mother Accorded the First Prize; Ila Fisher of Wasatch High School Wins Inter-scholastic Contest."

The Wasatch Wave of the following week reprinted the oration with a glowing tribute to its author and gold-medal winner.

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of Provo City were also honored. Music was furnished by quartets from Heber and Provo and by the Heber Brass Band.

After the program the large crowd adjourned to Heber Social (old hall) Hall where they were served free food between 4 and 7 p.m. A dance in Turner's Hall during the evening concluded the festivities. The special train left Heber shortly after 10 p.m. and arrived in Provo at 12:30 a.m.

Of the day's activities, the "Wave" commented:

"All seemed to enjoy themselves during the afternoon and evening, and we believe the visitors went home feeling that they had been well treated by the people of Heber and having a somewhat warmer feeling toward us than they formerly had."

The coming of the railroad gave rise to a number of related businesses, including "hack" service. Frank Carlile of the Heber Livery Stable was one of the most reliable drivers of the time. He met all the trains leaving town or arriving. Often his hack was so loaded with townspeople, traveling salesmen or other travelers that two or three had to stand on the step at the rear of the buggy. His reputation was for reliability, and people knew they could always catch their train if they rode with Frank Carlile.

Station agents that have followed Mr. Sullivan include A. A. Tyree, assisted by Nate C. Coleman; a Mr. Harmon; Joseph Ely who served some 20 years, and the present agent, Roger Felt, who has been at the station some 19 years.

Advancements in truck transportation and the convenience of automobile travel has cut deeply into the railroad's business, so that the train makes only one run into the valley each week at present.



Lt. Russell Maughan flew the first airplane into Heber in 1921. Schools were closed and people gathered to look at their first flying machine. Shown here is some of the crowd that gathered around the old DeHaviland plane.

## FLYING

The first airplane to land in Wasatch County came in 1921 when Lt. Russell L. Maughan flew an Army DeHaviland plane into Heber to pay a call on his mother-in-law, Mrs. David Fisher.

Lt. Maughan later won international fame when, on June 21, 1925, he left Mitchell Field in New York at dawn and flew non-stop to San Francisco by dusk.

When he came to Heber he landed on the James W. Clyde farm at Sixth South and Main. It was the first time many of the residents had seen an airplane. Schools were dismissed the following day so that students could witness the "take-off."

In later years a modern up-to-date airport was built south of Heber for private as well as emergency aircraft use.

## HOTELS AND MOTELS

Travel in and out of Heber by whatever means brought the need for hotel service and several fine hotels were established. U. S. Highway 40 through the city has brought many tourists to the area in recent years and the hotel and motel business has been consistently good.

The first hotel in Heber known as the McMullin House was built by Mr. and Mrs. Henry McMullin Sr. on the west side of Main Street at the corner of First North. Initially they had their own sleeping quarters a kitchen and two rooms upstairs for rent. Shortly thereafter about 1875, they built a brick building on the same location that had seven rooms for



The Duncan House, popular Heber hotel, is shown here in this 1918 photograph.